

CHRISTMAS 2024

THE PLAN

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ existed in eternity past long before He created the heavens and the earth. He, along with God the Father and the God the Holy Spirit created a plan called the **Divine Decrees**:

Isaiah 46:9-10 Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10) Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

God is omniscient which means that there is nothing that He does not know. He knows the past as well as the future. Part of the Divine Decrees was for the Jesus Christ to be the Creator of the world and would become both God and man united in one body forever (The Hypostatic Union).

He had the power to do whatever He wanted because He is omnipotent. He chose to volunteer to leave the beauty and splendor of heaven, not to enter the world being born in a magnificent palace, but to come into a fallen world as a baby in a stable in the little town of Bethlehem to what appeared to be a common mother and father.

Micah 5:2 - But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.

Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2) He was in the beginning with God. 3) All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

The One who created innumerable angels would Himself temporarily become, lower than angels. **Hebrews 2:7**

Sovereign God, the highest authority in the universe, would subordinate Himself to His step-father and His mother.

The Prince of peace would be spit upon, punched, brutality beaten, whipped, nailed to a cross, and run through with a spear.

The Righteous One would be cheated, unjustly treated, lied to, maligned, and receive unfair trials.

The One who is love would be resented, rejected, and hated by those full of jealousy, spite, revulsion, and rage.

Why would Jesus Christ voluntarily accept such a plan? Because of the infinite love He has for us that is beyond our comprehension. He came to take on Himself the sins of the world on the cross, in order to save mankind from going to the Lake of Fire.

OBJECTIONS TO CHRISTMAS:

Some think that Christ's birthday should not be celebrated because the Bible does not command us to celebrate it.

There is no command in the Bible not to celebrate His birthday. We celebrate the birthdays of president's; shouldn't we do this and more for the King of kings and Lord of Lords?

No one knows for sure the day or even the exact year when Jesus Christ was born so why celebrate Christmas on December 25th?

December 25th was the date of a pagan holiday, Saturnalia, and this date was eventually adopted by Christians to celebrate Christ's birthday. It is not the exact day but it is the event that really matters.

The word "Christmas" is a contraction of "The Mass of Christ," a Roman Catholic sacrament that Protestants should not observe.

Christians observe Christmas to celebrate Christ's incarnation, His birthday, not to observe a Catholic Mass. We adopted the name but not the method that Catholics used to celebrate our Lord's birthday.

Some believe that since the Christmas tree, mistletoe, holly, colored lights, and Christmas wreaths have pagan origins, Christians should disapprove of them.

It is true that Christmas customs have pagan origins, but so do the names of the months and days of our calendar. And many of our holidays, like Easter, have pagan origins. Does this mean that we should change our calendar, do away with Easter, and forbid the celebration of our Lord's resurrection?

People don't observe the cultural traditions of Christmas in order to practice ancient pagan rituals. Most people don't even know that they have pagan origins or what they are. They simply like to make this time of year special.

The fact that atheists, agnostics, the ACLU, and Christ-rejecting religions are against Christmas is a good reason to be for it. Christmas is a time of year that people focus on Jesus Christ, and this is not a bad thing. I don't think that God would object to His children celebrating the birthday of His Son, even if it isn't on the exact day that He was born.

However, Christmas today is becoming more and more about shopping and commercialism and less and less about God becoming a uniquely born man. The liquor industry alone spends \$30 million to advertise during the Thanksgiving -Christmas - New Year period. Christ is being squeezed out of Christmas.

In 1982, President Reagan sent out Christmas cards saying, “**Best wishes for a joyous Christmas and a peaceful New Year.**” The next year the greeting was changed to say, “**Warmest wishes for happiness at the holidays and throughout the New Year.**” Today, “**Happy Holidays**” and “**Season’s Greetings**” is edging out “**Merry Christmas**” for the official greeting. Easter break is now referred to as “**Spring break**”.

Atheists, civil libertarians, secular humanists, political and financial elites, and the A.C.L.U. have Christmas in their crosshairs. Christmas has become a secularized holiday as opposed to a Christian Holy Day.

Manger scenes depicting the Nativity in the public square is supposedly unconstitutional. Christmas trees are being called “holiday trees”. Someone complained about the Christmas trees in an airport, so the airport removed all 17 of them and stored them out of sight so no one would be offended.

Jesus' birth is the central event chronologically dividing the ancient world from the new, so why not celebrate it?

B.C.E., *Before the Common Era*, is replacing B.C., *Before Christ*. C.E., *Common Era*, is replacing A.D., *Anno Domini*, the *Year of Our Lord*.

Charles Dickens, author of "**A Christmas Carol**," emphasizes gift giving, secular charity, peace on earth, good will to men, and these are great, but Jesus Christ was not mentioned.

White Christmas" (Bing Crosby), "**Let it Snow**" (Dean Martin) and "**The Christmas Song**" (Nat King Cole) are beautiful songs, but they aren't about Christ. They're songs about winter.

“It’s a Wonderful life” is a Christmas classic where George Bailey learns the meaning of life on Christmas Eve, but he doesn’t learn this from the Lord. Instead, an angel shows him what his town would have been like if he hadn’t been born. Christians should wonder what life would be like if Christ hadn’t been born.

There is nothing wrong with Christians singing **“White Christmas”** or watching **“It’s a Wonderful Life”** as long as they understand what they are watching and don’t substitute the Incarnation with this secular entertainment as the central historical and spiritual truth about Christmas.

There are shows about “**Rudolf**” and how he saves Christmas from being cancelled. Another one is “**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**” that suggests the possibility of Christmas being cancelled. Some might wonder if Christmas could really end someday. No way! We can be rest assured that Christ’s incarnation and resurrection are historical facts that nothing can ever change or nullify!

As a breath of fresh air, the T.V. program “**Charlie Brown’s Christmas**” had Linus explaining the meaning of Christmas by reciting the Nativity narrative from the Gospel of Luke. The materialism of Christmas was highlighted when Lucy said she wanted “real estate” for Christmas, and Sally asked for “tens and twenties” in a letter to Santa. Many TV executives had a fit when they heard the Scripture being quoted on TV.

Hickenlooper's reversal on the Denver sign issue comes as many Americans express outrage over the regulation that a Christian group can't have a float in Denver's Parade of Lights. The church wanted to sing Christmas carols and have its own "Merry Christmas" banner WorldNetDaily reported. But spiritual groups including the Two Spirit Society of Denver, a support group for American Indian homosexuals, was allowed to participate.

The Cross Stays In Eugene

Some years ago, in a public park in Eugene, Oregon, a sand and gravel company erected a giant cross. They did not have permission to do so. However, through the years, the cross became a symbol to the people of Eugene. Especially at Christmas, when the cross was lighted brilliantly and sent its rays of faith and hope shining through the city, and the people truly appreciated it.

But with the current feelings of anti-religion becoming more prominent, a movement to have the cross removed gathered momentum. A lawsuit was filed by a Unitarian minister, and the court ruled that the cross had to be removed because it violated the principle of the separation of church and state. An appeal was made to the State Supreme Court.

“The higher court ruled that the cross could stay because it was simply a symbol, universally accepted, and now has no religious significance, and thus does not violate the principle of the separation of church and State.” — Ministers’ Research Service.

The United States Postal Service issued two Christmas stamps in 1972, one with a secular Santa Claus, and one with a religious theme. The religious stamp depicts a detail from a National Gallery of Art painting, “**Mary, Queen of Heaven,**” by an unknown sixteenth-century painter. The print order called for one billion stamps each, the largest ever for Christmas stamps or any other commemorative issue. --- Glenn D. Everett (Note that the term “**Queen of heaven**” is found in **Jer. 44:17-25** referencing a false goddess.)

Our culture is changing and not for the better. Christmas shopping commercials start earlier each year, and Christmas has become all about exchanging gifts, completely ignoring the “**Reason for the Season**”. Christ was born to die on a cross in order to offer every individual the greatest gift of all time, the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Christmas is not about what we give to each other; it's about what God has given to us!